

Jack Lord Denies Rewald Ties

Calls Claim That He Occupied Office Space a 'Damnable Lie'

By Charles Memminger
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Island personality Jack Lord said Ronald Rewald's claims that Lord occupied an office at Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong are a "damnable lie."

Lord told a federal court jury yesterday that he had considered Rewald a "dear friend" but was unaware that Rewald was telling people that Lord was associated with the company.

Had he known that Rewald was making such claims, he would have ended their relationship, Lord said.

"I hate to be used, anyone hates to be used," he said. "I would have considered that being used."

U.S. Judge Harold Fong's courtroom gradually filled to capacity as word got around the courthouse that Lord, star of the long-running television series *Hawaii Five-O*, was on the witness stand.

LORD, WHO was sworn in under his real name, John J. Ryan, did not invest any money with Rewald, despite apparent attempts by Rewald to get him to do so, Lord said he only glanced at the brochures and financial reports that Rewald sent him.

Lord is one of the many well-known island figures Rewald became acquainted with during his reign as head of what was supposed to be an international consulting firm.

Rewald is charged with using the company to attract \$22 million from investors, all of which was spent either on himself, office overhead or to pay phony interest. He claims that the company was a CIA front and that he was acting on orders of the CIA when he spent the investors' money.

Rewald got to know Lord through polo player Al Lopaka, who recently died of injuries suffered in a polo accident. Rewald bought the Hawaii Polo Club for \$30,000.

Lopaka, who did some work for Rewald handling polo ponies, had appeared on *Hawaii Five-O* from time to time, Lord said. In 1981, Lopaka told Lord that Rewald had television and movie scripts he wanted critiqued before he decided whether to finance the projects. Lord said he agreed to review the scripts for Rewald because "Al was a good friend."

"They were trash," Lord said of the scripts.

IN THE MONTHS that followed, Rewald repeatedly asked Lord and his wife, Marie, to dinner. After four or five invitations, Lord said, they accepted.

The Lords were picked up in Rewald's chauffeur-driven limousine.

That began a social relationship that continued until Rewald's attempted suicide and the collapse of Bishop, Baldwin in 1983.

There were several dinners at the Rewald house, Lord said. And every time they went to the Rewald home for dinner, cameras appeared and pictures were taken of Lord with Rewald, his wife and children.

"Everytime we went, cameras always came out," Lord said.

Lord said he refused to be paid for reviewing the scripts, despite Rewald's repeated attempts to do so. For Christmas in 1981, Rewald sent Lord a camera telephoto lens and Marie Lord an expensive scarf and address book. On Christmas Day, Lord wrote Rewald thanking him for the gifts, but asked him to "call a halt" to giving them such presents.

EVENTUALLY, the Lords used Rewald's car and driver whenever they went to and from the airport. Usually, Lord said, Rewald would be in the back seat, going along for the ride and sitting in the airport VIP lounge with them. When the Lords returned from the Mainland, Rewald would be at the airport with leis.

"I thought he was a very dear guy, a dear friend," Lord said.

Lord said he went to Rewald's downtown office two or three times to deliver his script critiques, but never occupied an office there.

Asked if he ever worked for Rewald, Lord said, "Absolutely not."

Nevertheless, Rewald kept an office free right next to his that came to be known among office staff as "Jack Lord's office."

Rewald also had Lord's name painted on a reserved parking space in the Grosvenor Center. Only Rewald, Lord and office manager Sue Wilson had reserved spaces. BBRD&W president Sunlin Wong did not even have a parking spot, according to Fennlyn Kimura, Wong's sister and Rewald's executive secretary.

LORD SAID he was unaware of the parking spot and never used it. He also was unaware that Rewald had listed Lord as a "consultant" on a company organization chart.

Lord shook his head slowly and said "boy" when showed the organization chart by prosecutor David Katz.

Asked what his reaction would have been when he found out Rewald was saying that Lord had an office in BBRD&W, Lord said, "If he had told anyone that I was occupying an office ... it would have been a damnable lie."

Lord said their only business dealing was selling Rewald a custom designed van for \$45,000 that Lord had used on the *Hawaii Five-O* set.

During a 15-minute recess, Rewald sat at his counsel table, busily writing and marking papers, while Lord stood about 20 feet away talking to attorneys. The two men never acknowledged each other.

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